IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Original) A process for decreasing a level of aggregate of pegylated protein isoforms, said process comprising the steps of:
   (a) providing said pegylated protein isoforms; and
   (b) separating said pegylated protein isoforms by anion exchange chromatography using an anion exchange resin under sufficient conditions to decrease said level of said aggregate.
2. (Original) The process of claim 1 further comprising the step (a1) of pegylating an unpegylated or a partially pegylated form of said protein, or pegylating both to provide said pegylated protein isoforms.
3. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein said pegylating step (a1) comprises pegylating with free PEG selected from the group consisting of PEG-N-hydroxysuccinimide-5K, PEG-succinimidyl carbonate-5K, PEG-succinimidyl propionate-5K, PEG2-malemide-40K (2 x 20K), PEG2-N-hydroxysuccimide-40K (2 x 20K), and PEG2-aldehyde-40K (2 x 20K).
4. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein a stoichiometric weight ratio of said free PEG to said unpegylated protein is from about 0.5 to about 100.
5. (Original) The process of claim 4 wherein said stoichiometric weight ratio is from about 1.5 to about 2.5.

Please cancel claims 6-7.

8. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein said pegylating step (a1) is conducted at a pegylating pH from about 3 to about 10.
12. (Original) The process of claim 10 wherein said pegylating pH is from about 7.40 to about 7.80.

15. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein said pegylating temperature is from about 18 to about 25 °C.

16. (Original) The process of claim 1 further comprising an optional HIC step (a2) of selecting said pegylated protein by hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC) using an HIC resin.

17. (Original) The process of claim 2 further comprising an optional HIC step (a2) of selecting said pegylated protein by hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC) using an HIC resin.

20. (Original) The process of claim 18 wherein said HIC load is less than or equal to about 4.1 g protein/L of packed bed-volume of HIC resin.

Claims 21-22 (cancelled).

23. (Original) The process of claim 17 wherein said HIC step (a2) is conducted at an HIC temperature from about 10 to about 40 °C.

Claims 24-25 (cancelled).

26. (Original) The process of claim 16 further comprising a UF/DF#3 step (a3) of ultrafiltering/diafiltering (UF/DF#3) of an eluent from said HIC step (a2).

Claims 27-30 (cancelled).

31. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said step (b) further comprises a step (b1) of loading said pegylated protein including any impurity and any aggregate thereof on said anion exchange (AEX) resin to provide loaded pegylated protein.

Claims 32-33 (cancelled).

34. (Original) The process of claim 31 wherein said step (b1) is conducted at an AEX loading conductivity of less than or equal to about 10 mS/cm.

Claims 35-36 (cancelled).

37. (Original) The process of claim 31 wherein said step (b1) is conducted at an AEX loading pH from about 5 to about 10.

Claims 38-39 (cancelled).

40. (Original) The process of claim 31 wherein said step (b1) is conducted at an AEX load of pegylated protein including any impurity or said aggregate thereof of less than or equal to about 10 g protein/L of packed bed-volume of AEX resin.

Claims 41-42 (cancelled).

43. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said pegylated protein comprises one or more of said pegylated protein isoforms PEG-1, PEG-2, PEG-3, PEG-4, PEG-5, PEG-6, PEG-7, PEG-8, and PEG-9 and any aggregate, trisulfide impurity and des-phe impurity thereof and any unpegylated impurity of said protein and any free PEG molecules.

Claims 44-50 (cancelled).

51. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said pegylated protein comprises one or more of said pegylated protein isoforms PEG-1, PEG-2, PEG-3, PEG-4, PEG-5, PEG-6, PEG-7, PEG-8, and PEG-9 and any aggregate, trisulfide impurity and des-phe impurity thereof.

Claims 52-53 (cancelled).

54. (Original) The process of claim 1 further comprising a pooling step (c) of pooling discrete amounts of said pegylated protein isoforms to yield a pooled pegylated protein by a technique selected from the group consisting of capillary electrophoresis (CE), sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), ion exchange (IEX) chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC), anion exchange (AEX) chromatography, cation exchange (CEX) chromatography, reverse-phase high pressure liquid chromatography (RPHPLC), size exclusion high pressure liquid chromatography (SEHPLC), affinity chromatography (AC) and combinations thereof.

Claims 55-204 (cancelled).